

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03285 01 OF 02 262048 Z

72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /085 W

----- 041784

R 261645 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7174

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI UNN

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 3285/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CO

SUBJECT: CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CARLOS LLERAS RESTRIPO AND
ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

BOGOTA 1374 AND 1792

SUMMARY. IN LETTER TO HIS WIFE DATED APRIL 4 CARLOS
LLERAS RESTREPO CALLED FOR THE NAMING OF A NATIONAL CANDIDATE
FOR THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SELECTED BY THE TWO TRADITIONAL
PARTIES RATHER THAN A STRAIGHT PARTY TO PARTY CONTEST.
ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN REPLIED IN AN APRIL 24
DECLARATION IN WHICH HE STATED HIS OPPOSITION TO
LLERAS PROPOSAL AND CALLED FOR THE CONVOCAION OF A
LIBERAL CONVENTION TO DECIDE WHETHER THE PARTY WOULD
AGREE TO SUCH A DE FACTO PROLONGATION OF THE NATIONA
FRONT OR WOULD RATHER PRESENT ITS OWN CANDIDATE. THE
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO LIBERAL LEADERS IMMEDIATELY
PROVOKED A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS BY LIBERAL, CONSERVATIVE
AND ANAPO LEADERS. THE SPECTRE OF A NEW SPLIT IN THE
LIBERAL PARTY LOOMS LARGER THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE REUNIFICATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03285 01 OF 02 262048 Z

OF THE PARTY IN OCTOBER. END SUMMARY

1. EX- PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO SENT A LETTER TO HIS WIFE DATED APRIL 4 THAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PRINTED IN THE APRIL 13 PRESS. THE MAJOR POINTS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) THE LETTER WAS A RESULT OF SERENE REFLECTION ABOUT THE LESSONS OF THE PAST AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE (B) THE
NMAFVVZCZ

ADP000
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03285 02 OF 02 262126 Z

72
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /085 W
----- 042052

R 261645 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7175
INFO USCINCSO
AMCONSUL CALI UNN
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 3285/2

4. LOPEZ PROPOSAL FOR A COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE ACTS OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT IS A REPLY TO LLERAS ASSERTION THAT POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP, AS EVIDENCED IN THE CAMPAIGN, IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE 1968 CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. LOPEZ IS PROPOSING SUCH A COMMITTEE AS A GUARANTEE TO THE PARTIES THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACT PARTIALLY AND WILL OBSERVE PARITY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION. IN ADDITION, THE NAMING OF THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL FROM THE OPPOSING PARTY WOULD BE A FURTHER GUARANTEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACT PARTIALLY. LOPEZ IS DOING ALL IN HIS POWER TO MEET THE OBJECTIONS THAT LLERAS HAS RAISED CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES BY EACH PARTY BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT DESIRE TO BE THE LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN 1974. HE CONSIDERS LLERAS PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL CANDIDATE AS AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP HIM FROM RUNNING FOR THE PRESIDENCY: A FRIGHTENING IDEA TO LOPEZ WHO CONSIDERS THE 1974 ELECTION AS PROBABLY HIS LAST CHANCE TO BECOME PRESIDENT.

5. LLERAS LETTER SEEMINGLY CALLED FOR A DE FACTO EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL FRONT BY MEANS OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE

CONSERVATIVE PARTY. HOWEVER, SUCH A PROPOSAL
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03285 02 OF 02 262126 Z

WOULD INVOLVE AN ARRANGEMENT REQUIREING
CONSERVATIVE PARTY SUPPORT FOR A LIBERAL CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF
1968 PRO-
VIDED FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN 1974, RATHER THAN A GOVERNMENT
OF ONE PARTY; WITH THE OBLIGATORY PARTICIPATION OF THE OPPOSITION
PARTY (C) THE PRESENT PARTY CAMPAIGNS ARE BRINGING
ABOUT A RESURGENCE OF PARTISAN PASSIONS THAT ARE IN CONFLICT
WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM: (D) THE
NATIONAL FRONT HAS BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT TO COLOMBIA BECAUSE
IT HAS PROMOTED PEACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E) THE
LIBERAL CONVENTION AND STATUTES AUTHORIZE HIM TO CARRY
FORWARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES (F) HE IS READY
TO CONSIDER, IN COMPANY WITH THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY,
POSSIBLE FORMULAS TO GUARANTEE THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT
IS TRULY NATIONAL AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE THE PRESENT
SPIRIT OF CONCORD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;
(G) THE FORMULAS WOULD TREAT SUCH MATTERS
AS HOW TO CHOOSE THE NATIONAL CANDIDATE, THE ESSENTIAL
PROGRAMS OF GOVERNMENT AND ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO MAINTAIN
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE: AND (H) THE BASIC PROGRAMS OF THE
NEXT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD A RAPID, PEACEFUL
EVOLUTION CAPABLE OF RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING AND
CURTAILING INFLATION.

2. LOCAL WAGES ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY; IF THIS IS THE TYPE
OF LETTER LLERAS WRITES TO HIS WIFE, WHAT DOES SHE SAY IN REPLY?

3. ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN REPLIED TO LLERAS LETTER IN A
DECLARATION PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS ON APRIL 24. HE
CATEGORICALLY OPPOSED LLERAS PROPOSALS. THE MAJOR POINTS
ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) THE LIBERAL CONVENTION IS THE SUPREME
BODY OF THE PARTY AND SHOULD BE CONVOKED NOW TO DECIDE
WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A COALITION CANDIDATE OR A PARTY
CANDIDATE (B) ANY COALITIONAL ARRANGMENT WOULD
HAVE TO BE A PARTY- TO- PARTY RATHER THAN A PARTY- TO-
FACTION AGREEMENT: (C) IT IS INADVISABLE TO MAKE A PACT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 03285 01 OF 02 262048 Z

PRIOR TO THE ELECTION TO SUPPORT A NATIONAL CANDIDATE;
(D) THERE SHOULD BE NO DECISION TAKEN ON A NATIONAL
CANDIDATE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT WOULD BE PRESENTING
A FAIT ACCOMPLI TO THE CONVENTION IN DECEMBER ; (E) LLERAS
WAS NOT ELECTED LEADER OF THE PARTY TO SUPPORT ANY
CANDIDATE BUT WAS ALSO NOT ELECTED TO OPPOSE ANY CANDIDATE:

(F) THE COUNTRY SHOULD RETURN TO FREE PARTY COMPETITION
RATHER THAN SEEK TO PERPETUATE A REGIME THAT IS OUTMODED
AND CONTROLLED BY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WERE LEADERS 25
YEARS AGO: (G) A COMMITTEE OF OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS
FROM THE LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES COULD BE
APPOINTED TO OVERSEE THE ACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT FROM 1974-
1978 (H) THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND COMPTROLLER GENERAL COULD ALSO BE APPOINTED FROM THE OPPOSING
PARTY: (I) IT WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT A COMMON PLATFORM
IN REGARD TO SUCH THINGS AS DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIERS,
FIGHTING THE RISING COST OF LIVING AND REORGANIZING
THE DECENTRALIZED AGENCIES: AND (J) HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE
IN FURTHER CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY
RESPONDS TO LLERAS, AND THE LIBERAL CONVENTION DECIDES ON
THE QUESTION OF A NATIONAL OR PARTY CANDIDATE.

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BOGOTA03285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730455/aaaajadt.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BOGOTA 1374 AND 1792
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980205
Subject: CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CARLOS LLERAS RESTRIPO AND ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN
TAGS: PINT, CO
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CALI
MEDELLIN
USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005